country if lakes are all reclaimed and cultivated? There will be no room for river water to spread and we do not know what course rivers will take and what ravages rivers may cause. Best, in these matters, leave Nature alone and do not interfere with it.

34. Fisheries Department.

MR. A. GOVINDAN ARAYAN (*Member, Nominated*) said that the existing rules for the issue of industrial loans did little help to the fishing industry. The Fisheries Department was in the first place independent of the Industries Department which had the control of industrial loans. Secondly, industrial loans were issued only on the security of immovable property, and fishermen as a rule had no immovable properties. They had therefore to take loans from a class of money-lenders who lent money at unconscionably high rates of interest. In some places the money was lent on condition that the borrower would give all his fish to his creditor. The latter fixed the price for the fish and the poor fisherman had to accept it. Yet another practice was for the fisherman debtor to take the loan on condition that he would give a share of his profits to the money-lender. Instances were also common in which the fishermen had to mortgage all their implements and accessories for a loan. This kind of indebtedness sapped the whole vitality of the fishing industry. It was therefore very necessary that a system of fishery loans should be instituted on the lines indicated in the memorandum submitted by the Araya Service Society to the Government in 1102.

Another suggestion which the member had to make was the appointment of honorary fishery inspectors who would do propaganda work among fishermen about improved methods of fishing, maintenance of public health etc. Such work was done to a certain extent in the previous year by the Araya Service Society at Karunagapally and it had very good results. Honorary inspectors, if appointed by Government, would be able to do the work better.

DEWAN'S REPLY : Mr. Govindan Arayan, if you will be so kind as to give me a copy of your printed representation, I will have it carefully gone into point by point.

For the present, I might just mention that the question of honorary inspectors of fisheries has come to my notice once before and from enquiries I made I learn that the Araya fishermen, a very independent class of people, resent interference by people who are not under Government control and who are not Government authorities. Honorary gentlemen cannot carry out their duties in much the same way as a Government officer can. I do not want anything that may be looked upon as undue interference.

The other point is about loans to the fishing industry. I will take up that matter in consultation with the Director of Agriculture and Fisheries and see whether it could be improved so far as the fishing industry is concerned.

35. Roads and canals in the Pattanamtitta taluk.

MR. V. I. CHACKO (*Member, Pattanamtitta taluk*) said that though the area of the Pattanamtitta taluk was about 989 square miles, the total length of roads in the taluk was only 100 miles, of which only 11 miles were metalled. The remaining portions were in very bad condition. The member therefore requested, first, that the following roads might be metalled :—

(*a*) Pattanapuram—Ranni road ;
(*b*) Kumpazha—Kozhancherry road ;
(*c*) Pattanamtitta—Kaippattur road.

Secondly, the member referred to the Mavelikara-Sabarimala road. From Aranmula to Sabarimala, this road ran through dense forests at certain places and for some distance along the banks of the Pampa river. This was a road which was of great use to the people resorting to the Kozhancherry hospital and to the Munsiff's court and the Magistrate's court at Chengannur. In the rainy season when the river flooded, the road become entirely useless. Having regard to the importance and the usefulness of the road, the member requested that it might be widened.

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